



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday February 20, 2020

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Jefferson Cutter Gallery, 611 Mass Ave.

Attendees: Commissioners Julia Forsythe (Chair), Mel Goldsipe, Bill Gardiner, Brooks Harrelson, Lisa Krinsky, Andy Robinson (Co-Chair), Helen Newberg

Liaisons: Jillian Harvey – DEI Arlington

Guests: Cody Boisclair, Leonard Diggins, Barbara Goodman, Susan Ryan-Vollmer, Sarah Trilling

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm. LK assigned as minute-taker.

1. Announcements: Open Forum

- a. Guests Sarah Trilling and Barbara Goodman shared the work of United Legal Defense Fund for Immigrants and the Arlington Cambridge Somerville Cluster focused on support for asylum seekers (housing, legal, health, transportation, etc.). They have provided support for LGBT asylum seekers as well as others. Fundraiser: Dance for Dignity 7pm March 14, 2020 at First Parish Arlington UU Church
- b. BH reported that Active Bystander training proposal submitted
- c. AR reported on bullying incident involving Ottoson Middle School students on MBTA bus recently. Parent indicated that 7th grade son was called "gay" and pushed around by other students. AR reached out to parent, inviting them to attend Commission meeting or follow up if our advocacy would be helpful to them.

2. Consent Agenda: AR moved to approve; HN seconded; passed.

3. Pride Planning:

- a. AR is chairing Pride committee and needs active involvement from all Commissioners for planning and events.
- b. Pride Picnic confirmed for 6/20/20 - Porchfest is 6/7/20 and will not conflict.
- c. AR will promote on our website, Facebook, in local media, letter to the editor etc.

- d. Other Pride activities:
 - i. Painting walkway at Town Hall. Will need to request permission from Selectboard. Will need to ask Chief Flaherty about staffing cost for APD to manage traffic while painting road.
 - ii. Need to ask Selectboard about Pride Proclamation as well - should plan to do this at May Selectboard meeting.
- 4. FY 2020 Budget:
 - a. DIG end of year picnic for all schools – 6/2 at Brackett. Requesting support. Discussion of \$100 for food. BG moved to donate money, BH 2nded, all agreed
 - b. Pride (youth) Prom hosted at library again this year and requesting support.
 - c. BG moved to donate \$250, AR 2nded and all agreed.
- 5. FY 2021 Budget: no news yet on FY 2021 budget request of \$4000.
- 6. Membership:
 - a. HN has renewed her Commission membership
 - b. BG is looking into renewing/extending his Commission membership
 - c. MG resigns her membership effective the end of this meeting
 - d. Nominations for new leadership effective tonight:
 - i. Chair – Julia Forsythe: HN motioned, BH 2nded, unanimous agreement
 - ii. Vice Chair – Andy Robinson: BH motioned, BG 2nded, unanimous agreement
 - e. Recruitment continues for 2-3 new members - flyer, outreach, networking for new candidates. Currently 5 candidates submitted. AR/JF and JH will participate in interviews. 1 position will be liaison to school committee, other (s) via town administrator and select board.
- 7. Subcommittees:
 - a. Strategic Planning: Strategic Planning met 2/7/20 with most focus on recruitment/membership as well as transition strategies for Chair's departure this month. Pride planning and HRC MEI also discussed. SP will continue to meet monthly January –April 2020, recurring meeting info posted to town website.
 - b. Liaisons and Partnerships: Commission is pleased that new Arlington Police Chief Julie Flaherty has been appointed and remains the liaison to this Commission. BG reported that he had represented the Commission during candidate interviews and that there is discussion of possible Police Advisory Committee in the future.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m. (BH moved; BG seconded; passed)

Next meeting: March 19, 6:30 pm, Robbins Library, 4th Floor Conference Room. LK and AR will be absent.